

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
DECEMBER 29, 2005 MEETING MINUTES**

At 4:04 PM, Director Charles R. Sullivan opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Director Sullivan stated the meeting was in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

On roll call, the following Freeholders were present: Lee R. Ware, Beth E. Timberman, Bruce L. Bobbitt, R. Benjamin Simmermon, Jr., C. David Sparks, Jr., Susan A. Bestwick and Charles R. Sullivan. A quorum was present.

Motion was made by Mr. Ware that the reading of the Minutes of the December 21, 2005 meeting be dispensed with and that the Minutes be received, approved and recorded in the Minute Book. Mr. Bobbitt seconded his motion. The motion to accept the minutes carried by hand vote of all.

No motion was requested for waiver of the Rules of the Board.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Ron Rukenstein gave a status report for the Salem County Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC). He also spoke about the matter put forth in Resolution R2005-519 awarding a contract to consultant Morris Land Conservancy for preparation of an Open Space and Farmland Preservation Plan for the County. Mrs. Bestwick inquired of the Agriculture Development Board's (ADB) support of the consultant. Mr. Rukenstein said that the (OSAC) has Andy Buzby as a Committee member and Kris Alexander as the Committee's secretary ensuring open communication between the two boards. Ms. Timberman asked Ron to comment further about the sensitive timing involved in awarding the contract. Mr. Rukenstein said that the consultant stood out as a superior vendor after a request for proposal search and that the consultant had prepared 37 plans to date. He said that the County plan will need to meet all of the requirements of Green Acres and be completed by the end of 2006 to seek program funding in 2007. He stated that this firm has thus far been successful in having the County's they do work for receive over \$1M in state aid for preservation. Mr. Simmermon inquired if municipal participation is being sought. Mr. Rukenstein said that four municipalities which have already created local Open Space Plans have already met with the OSAC and that those municipalities which haven't had also been invited to meet with OSAC. It was noted that some municipalities may need more leadership and assistance from the OSAC than others and that open space plans throughout the County will be diverse. Mr. Rukenstein thanked retiring Freeholder Sparks for the pleasure of working with him.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

There were no special recognitions.

CORRESPONDENCE

GENERAL

Roberto Rodriguez, Governor's Representative, Director, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Highway Traffic Safety – letter announcing the availability of federal grants for Federal Fiscal Year 2007 to implement the state highway safety plan and fund related projects by State agencies and political subdivisions

Ramón de la Cruz, Esq., Director, NJ Division of Elections, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Elections – notice of Public Law 2005 Ch.146, which took effect on July 12, 2005, states that counties must establish a voting accessibility advisory committee

Barbara Goldman, R.N., J.D., Director, Long term Care Licensing and Certification, Department of Health and Senior Services – notice that the Salem County Nursing Home is not in compliance with the Federal requirements for nursing home participating in the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs

Robert Grzyb, Director, Office of Finance, Department of Human Services – notice that the State House Commission approved the county per diem rates developed by the Department of Human Services to reflect the cost of care for patients at the State institutions and programs for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled for calendar year 2006

Robert Grzyb, Director, Office of Finance, Department of Human Services – copy of the revised Treasury Formula for the Assessment of Charges to Clients and Legally Responsible Relatives

Donald Epstein, Vice President, Matrix Realty Associates, Inc. – notice of the submission of an application for a permit or approval to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:7A regarding property in Oldmans Township

Borough of Park Ridge, Bergen County – resolution urging a county-wide program to control the population of resident Canada geese

Union County – resolution adopting the policies set forth in the Domestic Partnership Act, Chapter 246, P.L. 2003, and as the employer hereby authorizes participation under the provision of the Domestic Partnership Act, Chapter 246, P.L. 2003, and agrees to recognize the same-sex domestic partners of employees, as defined by the Act, as eligible for the same dependent benefits as are provided to a spouse under the State-administered pension funds

Douglas Zane, Applicant – notice of application seeking use variance approval and waiver of site plan review to the Alloway Township Zoning Board for certain relief in connection with property he owns in Alloway Township

Sharon D. Sunderland – letter of resignation as a member of the Salem County Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

Kim Hitchner, Elmer resident – letter of concern regarding the election, the Freeholder's pay raise, and Road Department issues

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Ware that the Correspondence be received and filed with Mr. Bobbitt seconding his motion, which carried by hand vote of all.

PAYMENT OF BILLS & CLAIMS

Motion was made by Mr. Ware that all Bills and Claims, when properly signed and audited, be paid and charged to their respective accounts. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bobbitt, which carried by hand vote of all.

The Clerk of the Board/Administrator read the resolutions in block by committee with Board concurrence.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE – Sullivan, Ware, Bobbitt

R2005-513 Resolution Authorizing an Inter-Local Agreement between the County of Salem and the County of Burlington

R2005-514 Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to the Service Agreement for the Administration of the Self Insurance Program for the County of Salem

R2005-515 Finance Resolution Cancellation of Funds (Total Funds Cancelled - \$3,106,224.84)

R2005-516 Finance Resolution Requesting Transfer of Funds (Total - \$155,000.00)

R2005-517 Finance Resolution Modifying a Grant Award per Notification from the State of New Jersey

Mr. Ware moved for adoption of the five resolutions with Mr. Bobbitt seconding his motion. The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a hand vote of 7/0.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE –Simmermon, Ware, Bestwick

No business came before this committee at this meeting.

COUNTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – Bestwick, Sullivan, Sparks

No business came before this committee at this meeting.

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – Sparks, Timberman, Simmermon

R2005-518 Resolution Memorializing the Funding Awards made by the Salem County Youth Advisory Council for 2006

Mr. Sparks moved for adoption of this resolution with Ms. Timberman seconding his motion. The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE – Ware, Bobbitt, Simmermon

No business came before this committee at this meeting.

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – Timberman, Sullivan, Bestwick

R2005-519 Resolution Appointing Morris Land Conservancy as the Organization to Prepare the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Plan for the County of Salem

Ms. Timberman moved for adoption of this resolution with Mrs. Bestwick seconding her motion. The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE – Bobbitt, Timberman, Sparks

No business came before this committee at this meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS There were no comments.

NEW BUSINESS

Citation Honoring Freeholder C. David Sparks, Jr. For His Many Contributions to the County of Salem was read by the Clerk of the Board and presented to Freeholder Sparks by Director Sullivan. Freeholder Sparks was also presented with a commemorative brick from the new jail which also had placed upon it a key from a cell in the old jail. Mr. Ware said he and Mr. Sparks have a long association and thanked Mr. Sparks for mentoring him when he joined the Freeholder Board. Mr. Ware said that he learned much from Mr. Sparks' vast knowledge and that he was a great public servant. Mr. Simmermon praised Mr. Sparks for the 15 years of working with him. Mr. Simmermon said the Freeholder Board had previously relied on Ben Timberman and Clint Ware, but later depended on Mr. Sparks' county knowledge in solving seemingly cyclical problems and that his experience will be missed. Mrs. Bestwick said she called Mr. Sparks many times for advice and it was her pleasure working with him. Mr. Sparks said it was an honor to serve and noted how interesting and complex government service is to those who are involved. He said government is all about, "Doing the right thing, at the right time, for the right people." He thanked his current protégés and the many volunteers on the committees and commissions. He said the families feel the brunt of the spouse's government service in being the interface with the public. He thanked his wife for her support during his 21 years of public service.

PUBLIC COMMENT There were no comments.

Salem City Mayor Earl Gage congratulated Mr. Sparks and thanked him for assisting Salem City in a good design in referring to Penns Neck Bridge.

Director Sullivan closed the public portion.

Ms. Timberman revived the tradition of her father's, former Freeholder Benjamin Timberman, annual year end report by reading a prepared statement (copy attached hereto).

CLOSED SESSION

R2005-520 Resolution Authorizing the Exclusion of the Public from a Meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Salem

Mr. Ware moved for adoption of the resolution at 4:35 PM with Mr. Bobbitt seconding his motion. The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a vote of 7/0.

Upon completion of closed session, Director Sullivan announced the Board was back in open session at 5:02PM.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Ware moved for adjournment of the meeting, with Mr. Bobbitt seconding his motion. With the motion properly moved, seconded and approved by all members, the meeting adjourned at 5:03PM.

Editorial note: High background noise on the audio cassette was due to a State network switch cooling fan adjacent to the taping system microphone.